yet to be implemented and they continue to lose their lives and limbs while seeking out livelihood by making matches, crackers etc.; and

(b) if so, why this indifferent attitude to future citizens of India especially when every child is entitled to safeguards and Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 10th December, 1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465/1986 gave certain directions on the issue of elimination of child labour including setting up of a Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund. These directions have been conveyed to the State/UT Governments for compliance. As per the information available, various States/UTs have constituted the Fund.

(b) Does not arise.

Unemployment problem in Assam

2661. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for solving unemployment problem in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the opportunities created for educated unemployed youth through the establishment of various industries in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Creation of 50 million employment opportunities is targeted during the Tenth Plan Period both in the normal growth process and through special employment generation programmes in the Country. These will also help unemployed youth in the State of Assam both educated as well as uneducated.

(d) Total employment in Assam which was of the order of 80.75 lakh in 1993-94 has gone up to 93.57 lakh in 1999-2000.

Educated unemployed youth

2662. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of educated unemployed youth registered with the employment exchanges in Assam, during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for solving the unemployment problem of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Number of educated (10th Standard and above) job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the State of Assam as on 31st December, 1999, 2000 and 2001 (latest available) was 10.46,10.82 and 10.37 lakh respectively.

(b) Creation of 50 million employment opportunities (10 million per year) is targeted during the Tenth Plan Period both in the normal growth process and through special employment generation programmes in the country. These will help unemployed youth in the State of Assam also.

International Labour Organisation

2663. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India consistently abstained from ratifying the Convention (No. 87) on Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organise and the Convention (No. 98) on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining of International Labour Organisation (ILO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken to ratify the above conventions?